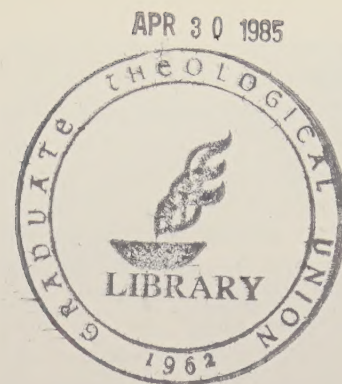




I. CXXI

No. 3-4

Leaves of Healing



MARCH—APRIL 1985

Publication of the Christian Catholic Church
An Evangelical Protestant Church
Headquarters — Zion, Illinois, U.S.A.

Marvelous Answers to Prayer

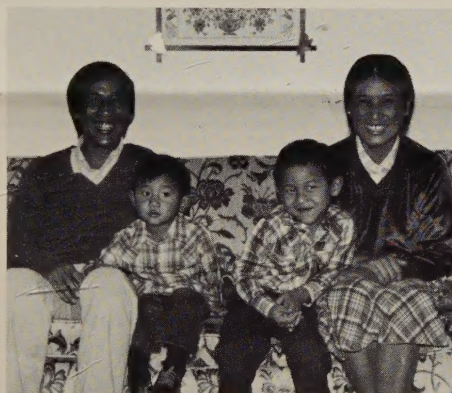
In the lives of Anjo and Atula Keikung of Nagaland in Northeast India

By Rev. Earl Minton

I first learned of Anjo and Atula Keikung in early November, 1984, while reading a recent newsletter of the Union Biblical Seminary of Pune, India. Our church had contributed to the move of U.B.S. from Yavatmal, a rural area northeast of Pune, to Pune, a metropolitan area of about a million population. My personal concern for the Union Biblical Seminary continued so I was with interest that I read the newsletter and learned that Anjo and Atula Keikung and their sons, Allen and Among, were at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, just thirty miles from us.

Looking at their picture in the newsletter, they did not look typically Indian, and I learned later from Anjo, that ethnically they are more Mongolian. Their home, Nagaland, borders Tibet to the north and Burma to the east. They are composed of sixteen tribes and sixteen languages or dialects. Until fairly recently little was known about most of these tribes because from the air, all that could be seen was jungle, and there were only paths to the different villages, and most of the area was given over to headhunting, so very few risked their lives to visit any village.

Much of Anjo's Phom tribe of 27 villages were headhunters until as late as 1950. They were illiterate farmers and hunters, with no written language,



Anjo and Atula Keikung
Sons: Among (L) and Allen (R)

no schools, and little knowledge of the outside world. For boys, the highest goal in life was to chop off the head of someone from another village. Worship consisted of placating evil spirits whom they feared. Up until now, Anjo's tribe has never seen a missionary, yet the tribe is now 95% Christian.

The amazing story of how the gospel came to Anjo's tribe and of the revival that followed in 1976, will be told, Lord willing, in the next issue of Leaves of Healing. For this issue, I want to share some marvelous answers to prayer that have occurred in the lives of Anjo and Atula since his coming to the United States for study.

Because Anjo was the first of his tribe to be called into the ministry and to receive a seminary education—at

Union Biblical Seminary, and because presently the seminary is seeing 25% of their student body coming from the North East India region, Anjo was asked to join the U.B.S. faculty. They then sent him to Trinity Evangelical Divinity School to further his education. Anjo arrived at Trinity in October of 1983, alone, as there was not sufficient money to send his wife and family.

Anjo began attending the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church of Long Grove, Illinois, as recommended by a missionary in India. It was a very small, struggling congregation, with a building program in progress, yet it also was a loving congregation that took Anjo to their heart. In December, 1983, Anjo received a conviction from the Lord that his wife's life was in danger. He wrote to his wife about this and together they covenanted to take the matter to the Lord in prayer each Saturday at the same time so they could unitedly commit the matter to the Lord.

In May, 1984, at the monthly Board Meeting of the C. and M. A. Church, someone read a devotional by A. W. Tozer on the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and the necessity of putting Him first in all things. The final item for discussion was Anjo's loneliness. Could the church do anything? The Board voted unanimously to give priority to bring-

ing Atula and the boys over. They arrived on September 24, 1984.

Two weeks later, Anjo and Atula took their oldest son to see a doctor on campus because of a boil. Atula was pale and thin and had been eating very little so Anjo suggested she be examined also, though they had assumed her condition was due to loneliness from being apart from each other. The doctor discovered she had a tumor in the cervix so made arrangements for her to be examined by Dr. John Struwe at Lake Forest Hospital. As soon as the tests came back indicating cancer, Dr. Struwe made arrangements for her to have surgery by the best cancer specialist and gynecologists at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois. She came through the surgery very well and in thirteen days was able to return home. There has been no trace of cancer since that surgery. It was two weeks after she was released from the hospital that we first visited them.

I should mention that God rewarded the faith of the church in putting God's servants before their own building program by supplying for them a wonderful way, far beyond their expectation.

Because we know from experience how lonely a person can be in a foreign country, far from home and family, Dorothy and I determined to be grandma and grandpa to the children and to invite the Keikungs to our home whenever possible. We had thought to be a blessing to them but they became a greater blessing to us, for they took upon their hearts our own prayer burdens. Their sharing with us their many answers to prayer were also a great inspiration to us. I'll just share two incidents.

While Atula was recuperating in the hospital, Anjo's pastor had set a date for sacrificial giving to the Lord. Anjo determined to give \$50, though at the time he had only \$10. He prayed for the \$50, and just before the morning he was to give the money, he found \$40 in cash in an envelope slipped under his door.

The following morning he was taking his son to see the doctor on campus when a man passed him, then turned around and handed him \$50. Within the next thirty days, Anjo received in gifts of cash or goods, including a personal computer for use in translating the Old Testament into his language, forty times the \$50 he had given as a sacrificial offering to the Lord.

A few days before Christmas, I had

taken Anjo a box of groceries and a check from our church for \$50, which had come as the result of the generous gifts for benevolence during the Christmas season. When Anjo saw the check, he said, "This is a miracle." Some days later, Anjo explained that he had just paid a very large telephone bill that had come as a result of his making arrangements for his wife to join him from India. He was totally without money and had done no Christmas shopping and Christmas was only five days away.

One other incident was in answer to his sons' prayer. Allen, 5, and Among, 3, wanted a very particular toy and had asked their mother for it on many occasions. Her answer was always, "We don't have money for that toy, but you can ask the Lord for it yourselves and if it is His will, He can and will give it to you. Not long after this, Anjo spoke at the Faith Homes in Zion and was offered an honorarium, which he refused to take.

While driving Anjo back to Trinity, Pastor Detert felt led to give the

honorarium to him, but not for himself. He felt led of God to tell Anjo it was for something his wife or children needed *or desired*. Anjo told him about the boys' prayer and that this was God's loving answer and encouragement to their faith.

Some specific requests that we can all join in prayer with Anjo are:

1. Pray for Anjo's studies that he may not just be working toward a degree, but also receive something that will be of benefit in his future ministry on the faculty of U. B. S.

2. Pray for God's help and wisdom in the translation of the Old Testament into his language. He has already completed the New Testament.

3. Pray for the training of more young men of his tribe for the ministry. He has asked God for twelve and six have by now responded.

4. Pray that God will use them mightily in the churches of our area as they share of the revival which God brought to his people, and the prayer that led to it. ◇

The Christian Catholic Church in Guyana

A Report by Rev. Earl Minton on his recent trip to Guyana

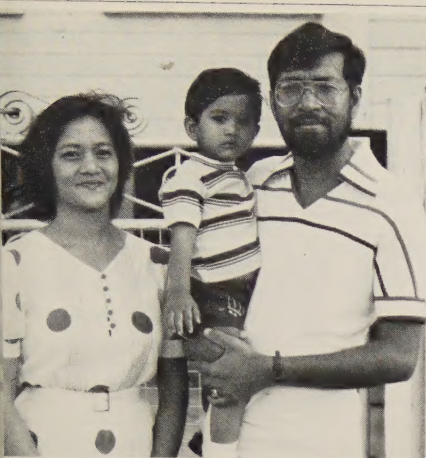
Four days after learning that my visa had been granted to enter the country of Guyana, I was on my way. Not having had all the documents required for obtaining a visa, I felt assured that God had opened the door and that this trip was in His will.

The day was very cold when I left home and I was dressed accordingly, with a wool suit, coat, and warm underclothing. It was certainly in the plan of God that I had left Zion early enough to spend an overnight with Bhola and Dolly Bipa (formerly of Guyana, then of Zion) in New York, rather than making a connecting flight directly from Chicago to Guyana. The Bipa's encouraged me to change into a light wash and wear suit and to leave all my winter clothing with them until I returned to New York. This also gave more room in my suitcases for food as so many food items are unavailable in Guyana and other food so very high priced. Knowing that I would be staying with James Harichand I was anxious not to be an extra burden on them food-wise.

I arrived in Guyana at 3:00 a.m. on Thursday morning, February 7th, but my luggage didn't arrive until the

following Saturday, while we were in Bartica, so I didn't have access to my luggage until the following Monday. How glad I was to be wearing a cooler suit. In my briefcase which I took on the plane, I had my Bible, camera, flashlight and toothbrush—the essentials. All the other things I needed were supplied by James and Jennie Harichand. Jennie immediately set about taking out some of the seams in James' shirts so they would fit me. We are both the same height but not the same girth.

That Thursday evening I shared at the Anna Catherina Prayer Meeting and on Friday evening at St. Lawrence. On Saturday morning, we boarded a ferryboat for the six hour ride up the Essequibo River to Bartica, where we were met by Rev. Eric Gray, who led us to the guest house where we would be staying, then to the church to finalize details for the corner-stone laying and dedication of the new building. Sister Shirley Benjamin, a member of the Bartica Church also set about immediately to find accommodations for the fifteen delegates who had come with us, representing the churches of Springlands, Anna Catherina and St.



James and Jennie Harichand and Japheth.

wrence. Those who had come with v. Pollard from Springlands had a very difficult time getting transportation to make the 150 mile trip from Springlands to Parika where they got the ferry. They had been up all night traveling and only barely made it on time for the boat. Sister Benjamin also took it upon herself to feed us all while we were there. The gracious hospitality and dedication I witnessed in the lives of Sister Benjamin and those who had made the arduous journey to be there was a great inspiration to me.

The Dedication Service was well presented by the pastors and members of other churches in the community, and it was a delight in meeting and sharing with them after the service. We enjoyed a precious time of fellowship with the members and I was particularly glad to see that Deacon Ovid Benjamin is taking over much of the responsibility for the work as Rev. May is well past the retirement age of seventy. Pray for the work at Bartica. The membership is small but there is potential for growth. Pray especially for Deacon Ovid Benjamin, that he could be a man after God's own heart and the blessing of the work.

While taking a picture of the Bartica church building from the hillside, I touched the camera to my right glass lens, causing it to drop out. However, I didn't miss it until the following Tuesday morning when I was reading my Bible and wondered why I was feeling restrain. It was then I remembered hearing a little scraping sound when I touched my lens with the camera at Bartica. Though I could have gotten by without the lens until I returned home, I felt led to pray that it might be found and returned to me to the glory of God and the encouragement of God's people in seeing living proof of God's love and care for His children. On Wednesday,



Christian Catholic Church at Anna Catherina.



Christian Catholic Church of Windsor Forest.



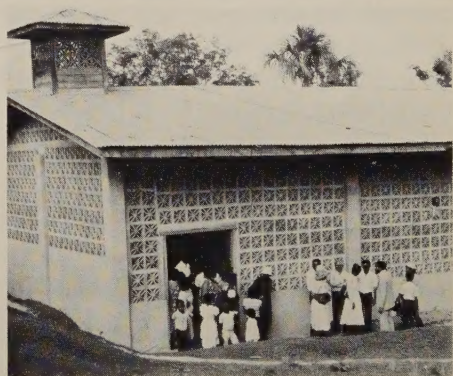
Part of the congregation at St. Lawrence.

day, Ovid Benjamin was present at the Christian Catholic Church Council Meeting in Georgetown so I gave him an envelope with the name and address of James Harichand on it and a handkerchief inside so that if the lens were found they could send it down to me.

Ovid returned to Bartica on Thursday afternoon and asked Sister Benjamin (no relation to Ovid) to look for the lens as he had to go to work. Sister Benjamin went immediately to the guest house where I had stayed, then to other members' homes. No one knew anything, but were distressed to know I had lost it. Early the next morning, Sister Benjamin went to the church and searched inside and out. For five hours, without stopping to take any food, she searched—to no avail. She then went into the church and "prayed and prayed."

Coming out of the building she saw a little girl walking up the path. She called to her and asked, "Child, have you seen any children playing with a spectacles—not the whole thing but just the glass part?"

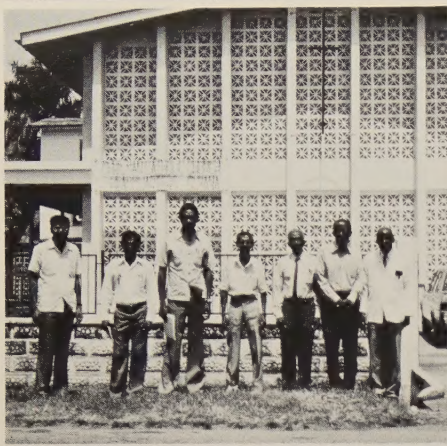
She answered, "I don't know if it



Dedication of new church building at Bartica.

were what you are looking for, but I did see some children playing with something like that, and when they threw it away I went and picked it up and took it home." Leading Sister Benjamin to the home, she pointed to a high beam in the bottom house. Sister Benjamin reached up her hand to where the girl indicated and there was the lens. She was so thrilled!

All the members of the church were so thrilled at the marvelous way God led in finding the lens that they insisted on her personally carrying down the lens to me and paid her fare out of



Christian Catholic Church Council at Headquarters Church in Georgetown. Left to Right: Rev. James Harichand, Brother Ramsarran of Anna Catherina Church, Deacon Ovid Benjamin of Bartica, Brother Sundar Ramsarran of Anna Catherina, Rev. Eric Gray of Bartica, Deacon Griffiths of Georgetown, and Rev. Edward Pollard of Springlands.

church offerings. Since it was on Sunday that she came down to us, she was able to share her testimony that night at the Windsor Forest Church.

As my luggage was expected to come in on the Saturday we would be traveling to Bartica, and since luggage that is not immediately picked up is often "lost," I authorized a "friend" to look after it for me. Three verses came to my mind which I claimed as promises from the Lord which removed any anxiety which I might have had over my luggage:

Exodus 34:23, 24 "Thrice in the year shall all your male children appear before the Lord God, the God of Israel...neither shall any man desire thy land, when thou shalt go up to appear before the Lord thy God thrice in the year."

Matthew 6:33 "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Psalms 37:5 "Commit (give over) your way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass (He will take care of it)."

The first two verses remind us that when we put God's business first, He will take care of ours. Psalm 37:5 is a promise that I claimed many times, and God always proved Himself faithful to His word.

My friend went to the airport and waited seven hours for the plane to arrive. When it did arrive, he was not allowed into the area where the luggage was to be unloaded, despite my authorization. Recognizing one of the guards, he begged to go in just to see if



Christian Catholic Church at Springlands and Pastor Edward Pollard.

my bags had arrived, and showing my passport, was allowed in. There he spotted my bags still on the cart, so he grabbed them off and took them to the customs officer, who seeing our Scripture Watchword plaques, and understanding that the bags belonged to a minister, allowed them in duty free. When he came out, the guard wanted to arrest him for going in under false pretenses, but God allowed him to get through without arrest. I know that this was in answer to the prayers of God's people. God used the story of my luggage and the finding of my glasses to encourage His people to trust in His tender and loving care.

During my twelve days in Guyana, it was my privilege to minister thirteen times plus meet with the members of both the Bartica and Georgetown churches to share their particular problems and concerns. Were it not that James Harichand has his own car, it would have been impossible to visit the churches pastored by Rev. Edward Pollard in the Berbice area as transportation is so difficult and costly.

Very few cars have been imported into Guyana in the past fifteen years, and trying to catch a ride by a bus or taxi can mean standing along the road for hours trying to flag one down. A dear friend of ours, Miss Emily Chung, who grades and mails out three thousand Bible Correspondence Courses a month had just paid over \$700 (U.S.) for four tires for her car, and now it needs a battery—another \$188.

We were so glad for the opportunity of visiting the church at Springlands, 129 miles east along the coast, and fairly close to the border of Surinam. We so enjoyed the hospitality of Brother and Sister Pollard at the manse, as well as the fellowship of the members in the service. Brother Pollard is a vigorous

and godly pastor and God's blessing is on his ministry. It was my privilege to ordain five deaconesses during the Thursday night service. On our return to Anna Catherina on Friday morning we made brief stops at both number 36 and number 11 villages to meet with and share from the Word with the fellowships there.

While in Guyana, it was also my privilege to meet with the pastors and deacons of our churches and to share some of the concerns of my own heart for the work, as:

1. The importance of each leader living a clean and Spirit-filled life;
2. The importance of good stewardship and accountability in the matter of finances, and all areas of church life;
3. The importance of developing leadership in the local church;
4. The importance of developing and giving high priority to youth work (the area where the Marxists are placing their emphasis); and
5. The qualifications required for pastors, when considering one for the church.

Following the meeting with the Church Council, James and I paid a visit to Guyana Bible College and talked to Mr. Kearns of the Unevangelized Fields Mission. They presently have seven fulltime day students and thirty evening school students. I encouraged Mr. Kearns to consider using James Harichand in the Anna Catherina area in Education by Extension. He thought that could be a good possibility.

In summary, I felt my trip to Guyana was definitely led of God and that He used me to be an encouragement to the believers who are experiencing great difficulty and hardship. I also came away with a greater understanding of the situation they face, such as the difficulty of buying Bibles and Christian literature and hymnals. Pastors need books to help them in their ministry. They also need books and materials to help in working with young people. There is also a need for used clothing. Most of all, they need backing in prayer. Three of the most urgent needs would seem to me to be:

1. For a pastor for the Georgetown Church. Deacon Griffiths is doing his best to keep the church together, but they desperately need a faithful and godly pastor.
2. For revival and/or spiritual growth in all churches.
3. For the urgency in giving more

prity to work with children and
ng people.

ersonally, I had a blessed time in
yana, and I appreciated so much the
pitality of James and Jennie

Harichand. I enjoyed little 20 month
old Japheth. The only thorns in my
flesh were the mosquitoes, but I only
had to put up with them for twelve
days. Those who live there endure

itching bites the whole year through.
Mosquito bites, were after all, a very
small price to pay for the joy of serving
Christ and of fellowship with God's
people. ◇

MISSIONS

For Praise & Prayer

"So we ourselves ought to support such people . . . to be fellow workers with them in the truth." III John 8.

man, Jordan

letter from Jo Gittings.)

o. was considering some of the
ngs she was grateful to God for,
ch included the following:

God's perfect provision for all my
ds;

The uneventful but exciting trip to
dan;

My excellent roommates (who love
encourage and exhort me when in-
tated);

My first days in language study
yn'il Kiis?);

the teachers, so gracious, loving and
ng, enduring the murder of their
guage 3 tortuous hours, 5 days a
rk;

the loving understanding and cor-
tion of the teachers, especially on
day I *meant* to pray for the starving
ple in Ethiopia, instead I prayed for
people hungry for turkey (thinking
ut Christmas): How grateful I was
the Lord understood the language
the heart (and also that no one
zed);

m Elias, I wonder if she really is
e years old? She doesn't have any
n which makes her Arabic even
der to understand. She does have a
ng spirit. My heart flips over every
n she reaches up and cups my face
mer hands and says, 'bless your
ds!' I love visiting her.

or Majda and Afiiif, their constant
rs of help and of being able to visit
families in Karak.

or the hard time, too, when my
pic notebook went flying across the
n, the humiliating times when peo-
ldid laugh.

or every time I've returned to the
ks after the storms and tears.

n grateful for my trip to the
E. to see people there again, staff
friends and all at the hospital. To

work in the hospital, hold a new born
baby in my arms, see the miracle of
birth.

For friends, new and old. For letters
when I really needed an encouraging
word. For answered prayer, healing,
and opportunities to minister. I'm
grateful I've learned more about God,
myself and Arabic than I dreamed
possible.

For all these things and so many
more I am truly grateful. The most
precious gift of all for which I am the
most thankful, is the gift God gave to
all the world—the free and precious
gift of the Lord Jesus Christ, and life
in Him.

Much love,
Jo Gittings

A Disciple's Denial

*The inevitable result of the sequence
leading to Peter's denial of You,
Lord, strikes home:*

He followed at a distance

*He warmed himself at the campfire of
the enemy*

He denied You

He wept bitterly.

It's the same with me, Lord;

A little less commitment

*A mere nibbling at the spiritual food
in Your Word*

A slightly deaf ear to Your voice

*A little compromise here and there,
seeking the world's approval*

*And I fall for the first temptation that
comes along.*

Then — bitter tears!

Lord, help me follow You closely!

*Guard me from embarking on this
dangerous sequence!*

—Maria Rogalski

**If we do what we should, we will
not have time to do what we should
not.*

News from the American Bible Society

*Mission Awareness is Theme of V.B.S.
1985 from A.B.S.*

Developing mission awareness by
opening young eyes to some of the
more critical needs for Scripture in the
world today is the thrust of a program
which the American Bible Society is
developing for Vacation Bible Schools
this summer.

Students will find ample oppor-
tunities, through the program, to share
low cost Scriptures with children and
adults in Mexico, Zaire, India and
Kenya, in the languages spoken in
those countries.

Anyone interested in more informa-
tion about this program may contact
the American Bible Society, 1865
Broadway, New York, NY 10023.

Scripture Translation and Distribution

In 1984, the ABS distributed
114,458,279 Scriptures in the United
States, which included portions in
more than 80 languages. Of that
number, 1.9 million were whole Bibles,
3.1 million were New Testaments, and
the rest were Scripture portions.

World's Scripture Languages Now Past the 1,800 Mark

Twenty-three Scripture languages
were added in 1984, making the total
number of languages with at least one
book of the Bible, 1,808. The complete
Bible is now in 286 languages and the
entire New Testament in 594
languages. [This means that about one-
third of the world's languages have at
least one book of the Bible, though this
represents nearly 98% of the world's
population. Many peoples are still
waiting for the Scriptures in their
language. Editor's note.]

The Christian in a Drinking Society

By Rev. Hugh Mainord

We live in a drinking society. It has already been established that there are some 100 million people in the United States who drink, 15 million of whom are now classified as alcoholics, having gotten to the place in their lives where they live to drink. The next big event in their lives is to get more of an alcoholic beverage. It is also significant that one-half of these alcoholics are women. A recent TV special revealed that women become alcoholics quicker than men, and it takes more treatment to cure them.

Studies have revealed that three out of four teens drink. The average age in Lake County, Illinois (where we live) for a young person to get drunk is 13 years, and the average age for taking their first drink is 11.5 years, according to reports from The Chemical Dependency Department of Victory Hospital in Waukegan, Illinois. This, of course, is well below the legal drinking age. These studies reveal that the drinking problem is not just an adult problem—or a college and high school problem, but it even affects those of elementary school age. It is also a fact that the earlier one begins to drink, the quicker he may join the ranks of the "alcoholics."

Where do those underage get alcoholic beverages? Some through counterfeit I.D. cards, some through having an older person purchase the liquor for them; and, of course, many take it from the refrigerator or liquor cabinet in their own homes. I cannot forget hearing about the couple who were extremely disturbed when they lost their children in an automobile accident following a social event that involved drinking. They were infuriated at the unknown persons who had provided the alcoholic beverages. Later, when they opened their own liquor cabinet for a drink, they found this note: "We felt you would not mind on this special occasion if we used some of your liquor."

According to a recent survey 81% of Roman Catholics and 64% of Protestants drink. Thus most of those who classify themselves as Christians also drink, complicating the problem.

Not many years ago there was much controversy over our involvement in Viet Nam where we were losing 5,000

lives a year. Yet alcohol is involved in the loss of 350,000 lives per year, 26,000 lives per year in automobile accidents alone. Yet, until recently, little was said or done about this tragedy. I was moved recently when I read of a woman who lost a son, age 18, to a drunk driver. She was so angry that she joined M.A.D.D. (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) and began to speak all across the country on this issue. Nine months later a second son was killed by a drunk driver.

As Christians we must address this national scandal from a Biblical perspective. What are the options open to a Christian on this subject? What about drunkenness?

For the Christian this is *not* an option since the Bible is very strong in its denunciation of drunkenness.

"Do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." Ephesians 5:18 (N.I.V.)

We are to be controlled by the Holy Spirit rather than by wine. The word, "debauchery," is the word that refers to rioting and is so translated when referring to the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:13 — suggesting his own drunkenness. Think of all the riots and fights that have been instigated by alcoholic beverages!

"Let us behave decently as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy." —Romans 13:13

"For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do, living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry." —1 Peter 4:3

We should note that this verse refers to their *past*. It is not for the believer. It is associated with the most heathen of practices, all in their past.

"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." —1 Corinthians 6:9-11

If, therefore, we will accept the teaching of Scripture, drunkenness is not an option for the Christian. Of course, not many Christians plan to get drunk, yet freely partake of that which they know can very easily lead to drunkenness. They flirt with an extremely strong temptation that can easily lead to the loss of self-control. This leads to the second option—the option of drinking in moderation.

There are, obviously, many Christians who opt for moderate drinking—with meals or on social occasions—and some purposely enjoy frequent social occasions. However, it is important to bear in mind that the use of alcohol tends to *misuse*. The moderate drinker does not intend to get drunk but usually does, at least occasionally. Of great importance, also, is the fact that one out of ten moderate drinkers become alcoholics.

There is a misconception that if one sticks to beer drinking only, he will not become an alcoholic, yet studies now confirm that one of six alcoholics drink only beer.

No one wants to become an alcoholic, yet there is no way of telling if the person who takes that first step will become an alcoholic later in life. For many, taking that first drink is like getting on a slide. Once committed there is no stopping until he gets to the bottom. From that first drink, to social drinking, to habitual drinking, to dependent drinking, to problem drinking, is an easy progression.

Where are all these alcoholics? On skid row? No - only 2% are on skid row. The rest are in our offices, factories, homes and behind the wheels of our cars. They are all around us. Even as a social issue and not a Biblical issue, moderate drinking as an option is a dangerous way to go for it leads to many to dependent and problem drinking.

A third option is for total abstinence. Some churches take a very strong stand for total abstinence as the only safe way to go. This has been the position of the Christian Catholic Church since its founding in 1896. It has also been my own conviction since becoming a Christian, and the more I read and observe of the effects of drinking alcoholic beverages, the firmer my conviction grows.

Total abstinence is certainly the option that every pregnant woman ought to take because of the risk of mental retardation, physical deformity, growth deficiency, or even death which

result from the alcoholic intake of other during pregnancy. It has been discovered that some fetuses are actually pickled in alcohol.

Total abstinence is also the only safe answer for the alcoholic for the very reason that an alcoholic is controlled by alcohol. There is no possibility of recovery for an alcoholic other than by total abstinence. He has become an alcoholic by denying to himself and to others that he has a problem. It is only when he comes to the point of admitting himself and others that he is controlled by alcohol that he can begin to seek help and be ready to accept help.

I read recently about a woman whose life was not turned around until her 12 year old son got down on his knees and pled with her to quit drinking. At that moment she saw herself as a helpless alcoholic and cried out to the Lord for help. Another did not wake up to his problem until his family was strong enough to take movies of him when he was drunk. When he saw on screen his actions—that he could not remember—he resolved to seek help. He had not realized until then that he was doing or how he was affecting his family.

In one publication, discussing the problem of alcoholism, said it this way: "Although it sounds cruel, covering up a drinking problem is one of the worst things you can do for an alcoholic. An alcoholic frequently blames his or her marriage partner for dependency on the bottle. This lays blame on the marriage partner who tries by trying to cover up the situation. Your friend first needs to realize that she is not responsible for her husband's alcoholism. The more she tries to hide his problem, the longer before he recognizes his need for getting adequate help."

For example, if he is unable to go to work because he is out cold or too sick from a hangover, she shouldn't turn sick for him or make excuses to clients. If he comes home after drinking, throws up, and then passes out in the mess, she should not clean up and put him to bed. She should let him stay in his vomit until he wakes up. This may sound vulgar, but the only way he recognizes the depths to which his condition has taken him, is when he may decide to seek help."

One man with an alcoholic wife told me, "I had to love my wife enough to let her go." He had kept the family functioning and had done the usual group activities. The crunch came one night when his wife was arrested

for disorderly conduct. She phoned him from the police station to come and bail her out. He debated with himself and then decided it would be best for him to leave her there overnight. Being locked up with women charged with burglary and vice awakened her to how far down her drinking had brought her. She hit bottom in that jail and her transformation began."

An article in the Moody Monthly magazine of November, 1981, began this way: "He vomited, then fell on the floor."

Squelching her rising anger, Valerie poured out all the Christian compassion she could muster. She held her breath and cleaned him, then struggled to get him into clean pajamas and into bed.

The following morning she called Dave's boss to say he "wasn't feeling well" and would be late. With strong coffee she pushed him to sobriety, then rushed him to work.

That evening, he came home full of remorse and apology. He gave Val fifteen red roses, promising this would be his last slip.

She'd heard those promises before. Yet he sounded sincere. She hoped this time the promise would stick.

Val insists she loves her husband, and she believes he will change. But she is fooling herself. Her love is neither true nor is it Christian.

Like many others with alcoholic mates, she unwittingly is encouraging Dave's alcoholism and pushing him toward an early grave. The longer he continues drinking, the more he will damage his liver and brain—and his self image.

If unchecked, alcoholism is deadly predictable.

Both Valerie and Dave are making the same mistake. They are denying they have a problem.

Of course, they know he drinks too much. But both deny its deadly grip. Both cling to the fantasy that he will straighten up, that this drinking bout will be his last.

Like most Christians, Dave and Val never dreamed alcoholism could hit their family. But alcoholism is no respecter of persons.

In my ministry I often counsel former ministers and missionaries, Christian Ed directors, Sunday school teachers, and college and seminary educated men and women who are be-

ing destroyed by alcohol.

Before they can change the course of their lives, they must admit they have a problem. That's the hardest step for the alcoholic and for his or her family."

What about children and alcohol? How do we deal with a child who has become involved in drinking? One source answers—"To prepare your child for a drinking society, first ask yourself, 'What does my life preach?'" Regardless of what you say, your example will teach him most. What is your example like?

Another source says: "Drinking is not the real problem. Usually it is a symptom of poor self-esteem or a need for peer acceptance. Use this crisis as a chance to reaffirm your acceptance. Embrace him and let him know his worth and your love. This can be a dramatic, life-changing turning toward deep communication."

Conclusion

Satan is very busy seeking to make beverage alcohol very attractive to us all. The alcohol industry makes it virtually impossible to watch a major sporting event on TV without very cute and clever beer commercials. The movie industry consistently promotes alcohol by example—for someone is always pouring a drink for himself or for someone else. Thus we tend to grow up thinking that drinking is just a part of "normal" living.

Another approach, as we have seen, is to "get the teenagers off the street and into some bar or night club for 'good, clean entertainment.'" Of course, liquor is not served, but the owner knows that in a little while many of these young people who have come to frequent the bar will be of legal drinking age.

We have not in this message dealt with the many Scriptures relating to drinking "moderately," but the following are some questions that we should be asking ourselves and Scriptures that relate to these questions.

1. Is it habit-forming? (1 Corinthians 6:12);
2. Is it offensive to other Christians? (1 Corinthians 8:9, Romans 14:13, 21);
3. Will it harm my Christian testimony? (Romans 14:16, 1 Corinthians 10:31);
4. Considering all the facts, is it wise to drink? (Romans 14:23). ◇

The National Scene

Report on the National Prayer Breakfast

By John Beckett, President of Intercessors for America

Being among 3,500 people for breakfast is, in itself, an event! But all the more so when the purpose is spiritual, the location is our nation's capital, and the main speaker is the President.

This year's prayer breakfast, attended by representatives from all 50 states and over 100 nations, was an affirmation of the rich heritage that is ours in America.

Ralph Regula, U.S. Representative, Ohio, who presided, said he recently saw a bumper sticker appropriate to the theme of the gathering: "You Are A Child Of God, Call Home!"

George Deukmejian, Governor of California, quoted George Washington who said, "Without God, there couldn't be an American way of life," and then went on to urge prayer for our leaders to exercise courage which he said can only come from our having faith in God and in the American dream.

Lawton Chiles, U.S. Senator, Florida, noted that up to 25 Senators "meet in the Name of Jesus Christ" every Wednesday morning to share their faith, their hurts, and their burdens, and lift them up to God.

The highlight, of course, was President Reagan's address which he opened by saying, "I look forward to this meeting more than any other all year."

He recalled that Dwight Eisenhower, shortly after he became President, confided in his close friend, Senator Carlson, that the White House was "the loneliest house I've ever been in," and asked his friend if he had suggestions. Senator Carlson suggested the the President join with Congressmen who gathered regularly for prayer. President Eisenhower joined such a prayer gathering in 1953. "Presidents have been coming here for help ever since," said President Reagan. Then he added, "and here I am."

President Reagan noted that fellowships are now meeting regularly in all three branches of government. The importance, he pointed out, is evident when we recognize that "a man finds liberty when he finds God" and in the context of these fellowships, we draw near to God whether we're a clerk, a king, or a president.

While I was blessed by the content of the meeting, my greatest joy was not in what was said or done, but in the awareness of God's presence. That presence, it seemed, was most directly manifested on the President himself. As my eyes filled with tears, we heard the President tell of the Fourth Century Christian monk who entered the Roman Colosseum, stood before the warring gladiators and said, "In the name of Christ, stop!" Then the monk's words were muted by the gladiator's spear thrust through the frail body, but his act of courage was sufficient. Forever, these violent and deadly "games" were finished.

I had the distinct impression that the President saw something of himself in the monk—helpless in his own strength, but reliant on a greater Strength—and prepared to give his remaining days to lead a nation in danger of decay and destruction, and say, "In the name of Christ, stop!"

Quoted by President Reagan at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention, February 4, 1985:

"I want you to know that as we begin the great work ahead of us, I've been thinking very much about divine providence, and turning to our Lord and asking for His guidance. I have found myself, as Abraham Lincoln did once, driven to my knees more than ever because there was no place else to go."

As the 99th Congress convened, a new move of fasting and seeking of God began among 10-15 Christian U.S. Congressmen. They join in united prayer, Bible study and fasting each Wednesday. Let us thank God for this new beginning, and pray that He will honor and increase the revelation and commitment to engaging in fasting and spiritual warfare.

Intercede that God bless, prosper and grant His wisdom to this group and to the many other prayer groups and Bible studies now occurring in every branch of the U.S. government. Because of the intense pressures and unusual attacks upon government officials and their families, pray that the Lord will appoint and send personal pastors to all who desire spiritual counsel and support.

U.S. Senate hearings held in November revealed that the United States is the world's largest consumer

of child pornography, with 85 percent of all imported pornography originating in the Netherlands and Denmark. Mounting evidence proves that women and children are victimized by pornography. President Reagan is expected to appoint a task force on pornography during the first quarter of 1985. Grass roots organizations are being asked to write to the Department of Justice expressing concern that existing laws are not enforced. For information on how to fight pornography, write: Citizens For Decency Through Law, 2331 W. Royal Palm Road, Suite 105, P.O. Box 35692, Phoenix, AZ 85069.

33rd Consecutive National Day of Prayer Is

May 2, 1985

The articles on THE NATIONAL SCENE are quoted from the February and March issues of "Intercessors for America," and are used with permission.

**Whoever is true to God seldom appears false to others.*

**Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy or distrustful? Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?*

**Prayer is not a device for getting our wills done through heaven, but a desire that God's will may be done on earth through us.*

**The most difficult translation of the Bible is that which must be translated into Christlike living.*

**Success in marriage is more than finding the right person; it's being the right person.*

In Memoriam

Rhoda E. Jobe (Mrs. Ursha) nee Hosken, February 6, 1985, in Florida.

Mrs. H. Floyd (Esther G. Reed) Cannon, nee Bower, February 18, in Zion.

Mrs. Max (Anna) Schmidt, nee Slifka, March 1, 1985, in Zion.